



16721  
NMC Policy Ltr No 15-01  
28 November 2001

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Coast Guard National Maritime Center  
To: Distribution

Subj: ACCEPTANCE OF COURSES COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE 1995 AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON  
STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR  
SEAFARERS, 1978 (STCW)

1. PURPOSE. This policy letter provides guidance about the acceptance of training completed prior to 1 February 1997, the implementation date of the 1995 amendments to the STCW, to meet the requirements of those amendments. Courses completed after that date must be approved by the Coast Guard as meeting the requirements of the 1995 amendments, and will have that information included in their approval.
2. ACTION. Commanding officers of units with marine safety responsibilities should bring this policy letter to the attention of those having an interest in the marine personnel field. Personnel of Regional Examination Centers should be guided by the provisions of this policy letter in reviewing mariners' applications. This letter will be distributed by electronic means only; it is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.uscg.mil/STCW/m-policy.htm>.
3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. NMC Policy Letter 23-98 is superseded and cancelled.
4. BACKGROUND. Some training required by the 1995 amendments to the STCW had been previously approved by the U. S. Coast Guard under policies and regulations that existed prior to the implementation of the 1995 amendments. For some competencies, the STCW does not state that a mariner must have formal training to attain proficiency in the competency; for other competencies, the STCW requires a mariner to demonstrate continuing competence at five-year intervals. Based on this requirement, acceptances of courses for compliance with the STCW were limited to those courses completed within the past five years.
5. DISCUSSION. Discussions with maritime industry representatives indicated that the five-year rule could be relaxed without compromising the professional quality of the training and the competence of U. S. mariners. As a result, for certain courses, the U. S. Coast Guard will accept for the purposes of qualifying for STCW certification completion of an approved course beyond the five years preceding the date of application. Information about the acceptance of these courses is listed below:

Subj: ACCEPTANCE OF COURSES COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1995 AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, 1978 (STCW)

- a. ADVANCED FIREFIGHTING. Completion of an approved or accepted course at any time in a mariner's career is acceptable. Possession of a deck officer's license valid for service on vessels of more than 200 gross register tons (GRT) (equivalent to 500 gross tonnage) or any engineer's license where the original license was issued after 1 January 1988 may be accepted as proof of meeting this requirement. Similarly, any one of those licenses that are the result of an upgrade that occurred after 1 January 1988 may be accepted as proof of meeting the requirement for this training.
- b. AUTOMATIC RADAR PLOTTING AID (ARPA) TRAINING. Completion of any of the courses after the indicated approval date may be accepted as meeting the ARPA training requirements.

TRAINING INSTITUTION	DATE
California Maritime Academy	9/1/93
Center for Maritime Education (Seaman's Church Institute)	10/3/89
Maine Maritime Academy	11/1/93
Marine Safety Consultants/Tidewater School of Navigation	9/18/92
Marine Safety International	1/4/93
Maritime Institute of Technology & Graduate Studies	4/21/89
Massachusetts Maritime Academy	4/1/92
RTM Star Center	3/1/91
State University of New York Maritime College	12/30/93
Texas A & M Center for Marine Training & Safety	7/1/96
United States Merchant Marine Academy	8/1/92

- c. SIGNALING. For applicants testing under the standards applicable under the 1995 amendments to the STCW, completion of an approved or accepted course at any time in a mariner's career may be accepted as meeting the requirements of the STCW for competence as being able to transmit and receive information by visual signaling. Completion of an approved course is not required; a mariner may establish competency through assessment at an REC. Possession of a license authorizing service on vessels of more than 1,600 gross register tons is *prima facie* evidence of meeting the STCW's competencies for signaling.
- d. BRIDGE TEAM TRAINING. This course may also have been known as bridge resource management (BRM). Completion of any of the following courses after the indicated approval date may be accepted as evidence that the mariner meets the BRM competency requirements.

Subj: ACCEPTANCE OF COURSES COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1995 AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, 1978 (STCW)

TRAINING INSTITUTION	DATE
Center for Maritime Education (Seaman's Church Institute) (BRM)	11/30/94
Marine Safety International (BRM for Towboats)	9/1/90
Marine Safety International (Bridge Team Management (3 day and 5 day courses)	10/27/92
Maritime Institute of Technology & Graduate Studies (BRM)	1/1/94
Massachusetts Maritime Academy (BRM)	10/9/92
RTM Star Center (BRM)	1/1/94
State University of New York Maritime College (BRM)	1/1/96
Texas A & M Center for Marine Training & Safety	6/1/96

- e. GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS). GMDSS courses began to be approved in April 1998. Courses completed before that date were targeted towards acquisition of a license by the Federal Communications Commission and did not meet the requirements of the STCW. They should not be accepted except to meet the requirements for a mariner to challenge the demonstrations of skills required of an approved GMDSS course. Note that the challenge method is not available after 1 February 2002. Further information is available in NMC Policy Letter 2-99, *Qualification for Issuance of Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) Endorsements*.
- f. MEDICAL TRAINING. Complete information about the acceptance of medical training to meet the four levels of medical qualifications within the STCW is contained in NMC Policy Letter 9-99, *Medical Training and Qualifications Set Forth in the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, As Amended (STCW)*. All courses that provided training in the medical field have been reviewed and where they met the required standards have been retroactively approved. These courses are listed in the following table. Only approved courses should be accepted.

Subj: ACCEPTANCE OF COURSES COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1995 AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, 1978 (STCW)

School	Course Name	Earliest Date Acceptable	Prerequisite Course	
			Course	Taught by
Acadian Ambulance & Air Med Services	Medical Care Person in Charge	12/1/01	None	--
Alaska Marine Highway System	Medical Care Person in Charge	10/1/01	None	--
Calhoon MEBA Engineering School	Ship's Medicine	12/31/93	None	--
California Maritime Academy	Medical Care Person in Charge	6/1/00	None	--
Emergency Training Xcellence (aka Emergency & Safety Programs)	Supplemental Marine Medical Care	4/1/00	Medical First Aid Provider	Emergency & Safety Programs or Emergency Training Xcellence
Emergency Training Xcellence (aka Emergency & Safety Programs)	Medical Care Person in Charge	4/1/00	None	--
Maine Maritime Academy	Medical Care Person in Charge	4/1/01	Medical Care Provider	Any Coast Guard Approved Course
Maine Maritime Academy	Advanced Ship's Medicine	4/19/94	Medical Care Provider	Any Coast Guard Approved Course
Marine Medical International	Medical Care Person in Charge	2/1/01	None	--
Maritime Institute of Technology & Graduate Studies (MITAGS)	Shipboard Medical Care	9/22/93	None	--

E. J. FINK

Dist: Commandant (G-MSO)  
 All District Commanders (m)  
 COs, all MSOs  
 All Activity Commanders  
 All RECs